

A. CLAIMS 23-27, 36-47, 51-55 AND 60-63 ARE NOT ANTICIPATED BY YOSHIMURA

As amended herein, claim 23 is directed to a method that forms a multi-coating pattern onto a base substrate to achieve edge alignment between at least a part of each of the coatings along at least a part of one edge of the pattern. Support for the amended language in claim 23 may be found in U.S. Patent No. 5,830,529 at col. 9, line 65, col. 10, line 24 and continuing, Figs. 2A-2Q, Figs. 7A-7C, Fig. 43A, col. 5, line 60, col. 23, lines 9-12, col. 34, lines 53-60, and col. 35 lines 14-18.

With this clarification introduced into claim 23, applicant submits that claim 23 does not read upon Yoshimura or Hill. As Yoshimura fails to disclose such registration, Yoshimura is overcome as a 35 USC §102 reference. Thus claim 23, and dependent claims 24-27 are patentable over Yoshimura.

Claim 36 as amended herein is directed to a three-dimensional article having a base substrate, first and second coatings, where the second coating has at least one edge that defines at least one perimeter that is aligned with an edge of the multi-dimensional base, or other edge of the first coating. So amended, claim 36 overcomes Yoshimura, which fails to disclose such an aligned relationship between coatings. Thus claim 36 and dependent claims 37-47 are patentable over Yoshimura.

Claim 51 as amended herein is directed to an article of manufacture that includes first and second materials each having at least one surface suitable for use as a base, means for attaching the first and second materials, at least one coating, and an edge that defines a perimeter, and means for aligning the at least one edge of the first material with at least one edge of the second material. So amended, claim 51 does not read on the structure of Yoshimura, and Yoshimura is overcome as a 35 USC §102 reference. Thus, claim 51 is patentable over Yoshimura, as are dependent claims 52-55.

Claim 60 as amended herein defines a method of forming a laminate pattern of coatings onto a material such that successive coatings are aligned along at least one defined edge as well as at area of the successive coatings that are not immediately adjacent the edge. So amended, claim 60 overcomes Yoshimura, as do dependent claims 61-63.

B. CLAIMS 28-31 AND 36-63 ARE NOT ANTICIPATED BY HILL

As amended herein, claim 28 is directed to forming a laminate pattern of coatings such that “substantial registration” is attained not only between successive coatings along at least one defined edge but also in “at least one area” of the coating not immediately an edge thereof. Support for the amended language is found in U.S. Patent No. 5,830,529 at col. 24, lines 15-28, col. 1, lines 43-75, and col. 21, lines 44-50.

At best Hill produces “exact registration” but only at an edge of a mechanically punched or drilled hole. Hill does not disclose every step of amended claim 28 and is overcome as a 35 USC §102 reference. Thus, claim 28 is patentable over Hill, as are dependent claims 29-31.

Claim 36 as amended herein is directed to a three-dimensional article of manufacture have a base substrate with at least three surfaces, one of which is a base surface that can receive at least an applied first coating. A second coating includes an edge that defines at least one perimeter disposed disposed on a least one location selected from (i) at least a portion of the first coating, and (ii) one of the at least three surfaces of the base substrate. At best Hill seeks registration by drilling or punching to remove a portion of an image, or by drilling, etc. such that layers of image design may be applied over the silhouette patterns. As such, Hill does not disclose every element recited in claim 36, and is overcome as a 35 USC §102 reference. Claims 37-50 depend from claim 36, and also overcome Hill.

Claim 51 as amended herein is directed to an article of manufacture that includes first and second materials each having at least one surface suitable as a base. The articles includes means for attaching the first and second materials, and further includes at least one coating, at least one edge that defines a perimeter, and means for aligning at least one edge of the first material with at least one edge of the second material. Hill does not disclose applicant’s first and second bases as defined by amended claim 51, and thus Hill is overcome as a 35 USC §102 reference. Claims 52-55 depend from claim 51 and are also not anticipated by Hill.

Amended claim 60 is directed to a method of forming a laminate pattern of coatings onto a material such that “substantial registration” exists not merely at an edge of a base, but also at areas ofwhere successive coatings are aligned along at least one

defined edge, as well as at areas of the successive coatings that are not immediately adjacent the edge. The material includes a base substrate having at least three bases, which substrate is modified to define the at least one edge. A first coating is applied to a base surface such that the edge defines at least one perimeter of the first coating. A second coating is applied adjacent the first coating so as to use the same edge to define a second edge. The successive coatings align along the edge, as well as at regions of the successive coatings not immediately adjacent the edge. This method is not disclosed by Hill, which is overcome as a 35 USC §102 reference as to amended claim 60, and as to dependent claims 61-63.

C. CLAIMS 32-35 ARE NOT RENDERED OBVIOUS BY YOSHIMURA AND/OR HILL

As amended herein, claim 32 forms a pattern of coatings onto a panel with perimeter coating alignment between at least a part of successive coatings along at least an edge of the pattern, and at at least one area of the successive coatings not immediately adjacent the edge. Applicant submits that method steps (a)-(d) differ from Yoshimura and/or Hill who methodology is different in that cutting/punching steps must be used to define openings, and where registration occurs at best immediately only at the edge of such cut or punch openings.

As such, claim 32 is patentable over Yoshimura and/or Hill, as are dependent claims 33-35.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-22 stand allowed. Claims 23-63 are patentable over the references of record. This Amendment should be entered, and claims 23-63 should be passed to allowance at this time.

A version of the text with markings to show additions and [deletions] effected by this amendment is attached hereto at page 11 with the heading "Versions with Markings to Show Changes Made." Also attached hereto at page 17 is a clean copy of the claims as pending after this amendment.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required, including extension fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2319 (Our Order No. 468824-00003 [RI-69912/MAK]).

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 23, 27-32, 36, 37, 51, 52 and 60 were amended as follows:

23. (amended) A method of forming a pattern of at least two coatings onto a [panel] base substrate to achieve [at least substantial registration] edge alignment between at least a part of [successive] each of said coatings along at least a part of one edge of said pattern, the method comprising the steps of:

- R2 Sub E1*
- a) providing a base substrate comprising at least one base;
 - b) applying a first coating to at least a part of said base;
 - c) applying at least a second coating over at least a portion of said first coating; and
 - d) [forming an edge to define a perimeter for said first coating and said second coating to achieve at least substantial registration of said second coating with said first coating] modifying at least a portion of at least one of said coatings to achieve said edge alignment.

R2

27. (amended) The method of claim 23, wherein step (a) includes providing a base substrate comprising transfer material, and further including releasing a laminate pattern of [the] applied said coatings from said transfer material by application of at least one of pressure, heat, and radiation.

Sub E2

28. (amended) A method of forming a laminate pattern of coatings onto a material [light permeable panel with substantial registration] with alignment between at least two of successive coatings along at least one defined edge of the pattern as well as at at least one area of the successive coatings not immediately adjacent said edge, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a three-dimensional base material having at least three surfaces [a first side and a second side];
- b) [cutting] modifying said base material to provide a desired pattern of edges [perforate and non-perforate portions for attaining substantial registration of successively applied layers of coatings];
- c) applying a first coating to at least one [non-perforate] portion of [said] a first surface [side] of said base material;

Sub 7
d) applying at least a second coating over at least a portion of said first coating so as to define a laminate pattern of coatings with [substantial registration] perimeter coating alignment along at least one defined edge [edges of at least a part of remaining non-perforate portions of cut said base material]; and

e) applying a light absorbing coating over at least a portion of [said] a second [side] surface of said base.

29. (amended) The method of claim 28, wherein said base material comprises at least one material selected from a group consisting of paper, metal, glass, and plastic.

30. (amended) The method of claim 28, wherein at least one of said first coating and said second coating has at least one characteristic selected from a group consisting of (i) said coating is substantially opaque, (ii) said coating comprises ink, [and] (iii) said coating forms indicia, and said coating is light transmissive.

Sub 2
31. (amended) The method of claim 28, including a step of applying at least one metal coating over at least a portion of [non-perforate portions of] said base [material] substrate.

32. (amended) A method of forming a pattern of coatings onto a panel with [substantial registration] perimeter coating alignment between at least a part of successive coatings along at least one edge of the pattern and at at least one area of said successive coatings not immediately adjacent said edge, the method comprising the steps of:

Sub 7
a) providing a base;
b) modifying said base to form [forming] an edge to define a perimeter for said coatings to achieve substantial [registration] alignment;

c) after forming said edge, applying a first coating to at least a part of said base so as to be in proximity to said edge; and

d) applying at least one additional coating over at least a portion of said first coating so as to be in proximity to said edge;
wherein alignment exists between said first coating and said additional coating at said edge.

33. (amended) The method of claim 32, wherein at least one [additional] said coating has a characteristic selected from a group consisting of (I) the coating is substantially opaque, (ii) the coating comprises ink, (iii) the coating comprises printed ink, (iv) the coating comprises machine-printed ink, (v) the coating comprises inkjet-printed ink, (vi) the coating comprises ceramic, and (vii) the coating comprises metal.

35. (amended) The method of claim 34, wherein said step of transferring includes the application of at least one material or force selected from a group consisting of (i) pressure, (ii) heat, (iii) radiation, (iv) treatment, (v) liquid, (vi) powder, (vii) stamping, (viii) deposition, (ix) sublimation, (x) electrostatic attraction, (xi) electrostatic repulsion, (xii) magnetic attraction, (xiii) magnetic repulsion, and (xiv) gravity. [has at least one characteristic selected from a group consisting of (I) application of pressure, and (ii) application of heat.]

36. (amended) A[n] three-dimensional article of manufacture comprising:

a) a base substrate having at least three surfaces, one of said surfaces being a base surface adapted to receive at least a first application of at least one coating [a first surface and a second surface];

b) a first coating diposed on at least one surface of said base substrate; and

c) a second coating, having at least one edge defining at least one perimeter, disposed on a least one location selected from (i) at least a portion of said first coating, and (ii) one of said at least three surfaces. [a part of said first coating; said second coating having at least one edge that defines at least one perimeter on said base;

wherein said first coating and said second coating form a substantially aligned relationship with each other on at least a part of said edge.]

37. (amended) An article of manufacture according to claim 36, wherein said base substrate has at least one characteristic selected from a group consisting of [(I)] (i) said base substrate is formable, (ii) said base substrate is deformable, (iii) said base substrate is shape-changeable, (iv) said base substrate is expandable, (v) said base substrate is contractable, (vi) said base substrate includes an area at least partially transmissive to light, (vi) said base substrate is at least partially electrically conductive, (vii) said base substrate is at least partially light transmissive, (ix) said base substrate

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is at least partially light transmissive to visible light proximate a surface of said base substrate, and (x) said base substrate defines a hollow portion. [, .]

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42. (amended) An article of manufacture according to claim 36, wherein at least one said coating has at least one characteristic selected from a group consisting of (i) said coating forms indicia, (ii) coating is receptive to ink, (iii) said coating is reactive, (iv) said coating is protective, (v) said coating is a release coating, (vi) at least part of said coating is protected, (vii) at least part of said coating is modifiable, (viii) at least part of said coating is applicable using a method selected from a group consisting of (viii-a) transfer, (viii-b) printing, and (viii-c) spraying), (viii-d) transfer, (ix) at least part of said coating is opaque, and (x) at least part of said coating forms indicia.

43. (amended) An article of manufacture according to claim 36, wherein said perimeter has at least one characteristic selected from a group consisting of (i) said perimeter is defined by at least one hole, (ii) said perimeter results from cutting, (iii) said perimeter results from laser cutting, (iv) said perimeter results from punching, (v) said perimeter results from perforating, (vi) said perimeter results from die cutting, (vii) said perimeter results from rotary cutting, (viii) said perimeter is defined by said coating such that passages are formed that are at least partially transmissive to light, and (ix) said perimeter is defined by substantially parallel edges to [firm] form individual lines in a pattern.

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51. (amended) An article of manufacture, comprising:
a first first material having at least one surface adapted for use as a [first] base;
a second material having at least one surface adapted for use as a [second]
base;
means for attaching said second [base] material to said first [base] material;
at least one coating; and
at least one edge defining a perimeter; and
means for aligning at least one edge of said first material with at least one edge
of said second material.

52. (amended) An article of manufacture, according to claim 51, wherein at least a surface portion of said one coating defines [a second] an additional base.


54. (amended) An article of manufacture, according to claim 51, wherein at least one said coating has a characteristic selected from a group consisting of (i) said coating is hand-applied, (ii) said coating is hand-sprayed, (iii) said coating is machine sprayed, (iv) said coating is roller-applied, (v) said coating is applied using electrostatic attraction, (vi) said coating is applied using electrostatic repulsion, (vii) said coating is applied using conductive deposition, (viii) said coating is applied using magnetic attraction, (ix) said coating is applied using magnetic repulsion, (x) said coating is applied with charged particles, (xi) said coating is applied with liquid flow, [blade coating,] (xii) said coating is transfer-applied, (xiii) said coating is applied with adhesion, and (xiv) said coating is blade [and reverse roll] applied, (xv) said coating is an applied blade coating, and (xvi) said coating is reverse roll applied.


55. (amended) An article of manufacture, according to claim 51, wherein at least one said coating has a characteristic selected from a group consisting of (i) said coating includes ink, (ii) said coating is a liquid, (iii) said coating is a solid, (iv) said coating is a flowable solid, (v) said coating is toner, (vi) said coating is particulate, (vii) said coating is paint-jet applicable, (viii) said coating is a dye, (ix) said coating is a transfer powder, and (x) said coating is a vapor deposited metal.


56. (amended) The method of claim 23, wherein at least one of step (b) and step (c) further includes applying at least one coating to at least a portion of a surface of said base opposite a side of said base to which said first coating was applied.

60. (amended) A method of forming a laminate pattern of coatings onto a material [with substantial registration between] wherein successive coatings are aligned along at least one defined edge[,] as well as at areas of said successive coatings that are not immediately adjacent said edge, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a base substrate having at least three bases;
- b) modifying said base substrate on at least one base surface to define at least one edge;
- c) applying a first coating to said one surface of said base so as to use said edge to define at least one perimeter of said first coating;

 d) applying a second coating adjacent said first coating so as to use said edge of said substrate to define at least one perimeter of said second coating, and to use an edge of said first coating to define a second edge; [and

 (e) applying a third coating on a second surface of said base] wherein successive coatings are aligned along said edge as well as at regions of said successive coatings that are not immediate adjacent said edge of said substrate.

 63. (amended) The method of claim 60, wherein step (b) is carried out after step (d) [(e)].
